

5. Facility Assessment

Architectural & Engineering Issues

In addition to the functional component discussion to follow several architectural and engineering issues need to be addressed as a part of the needs assessment.

General Facility Comments

The existing building systems are stretched to the max and not capable of providing for any significant additional space. The 1990 addition systems provided for itself but no future expansion.

In general, any addition at this time will need to provide its own expansion of decentralized systems and services; including:

- Fire Pump/Sprinkler System
- Electrical Transformer
- Water and Gas Supply
- Main Entrance
- Air Conditioning System
- Boilers
- And Alarm System

Much of the information gathered here is the result of discussion with facility maintenance personnel and should not replace appropriate detail engineering system studies during the implementation phase. When a more detailed evaluation of existing equipment replacement and phasing will take place.

Also specific systems in the addition such as cameras, security, locking Mag card readers, and fire alarm control systems will need to interface with existing systems in an enlarged main control room in the existing building.

Existing Building Upgrades

In addition, the following upgrades in the existing building need to be included in the project budget:

- A new roof over the 1990 addition
- New window seals in 1990 housing dayroom
- New public toilet rooms in the original 1974 building on levels B, 1, 3, and

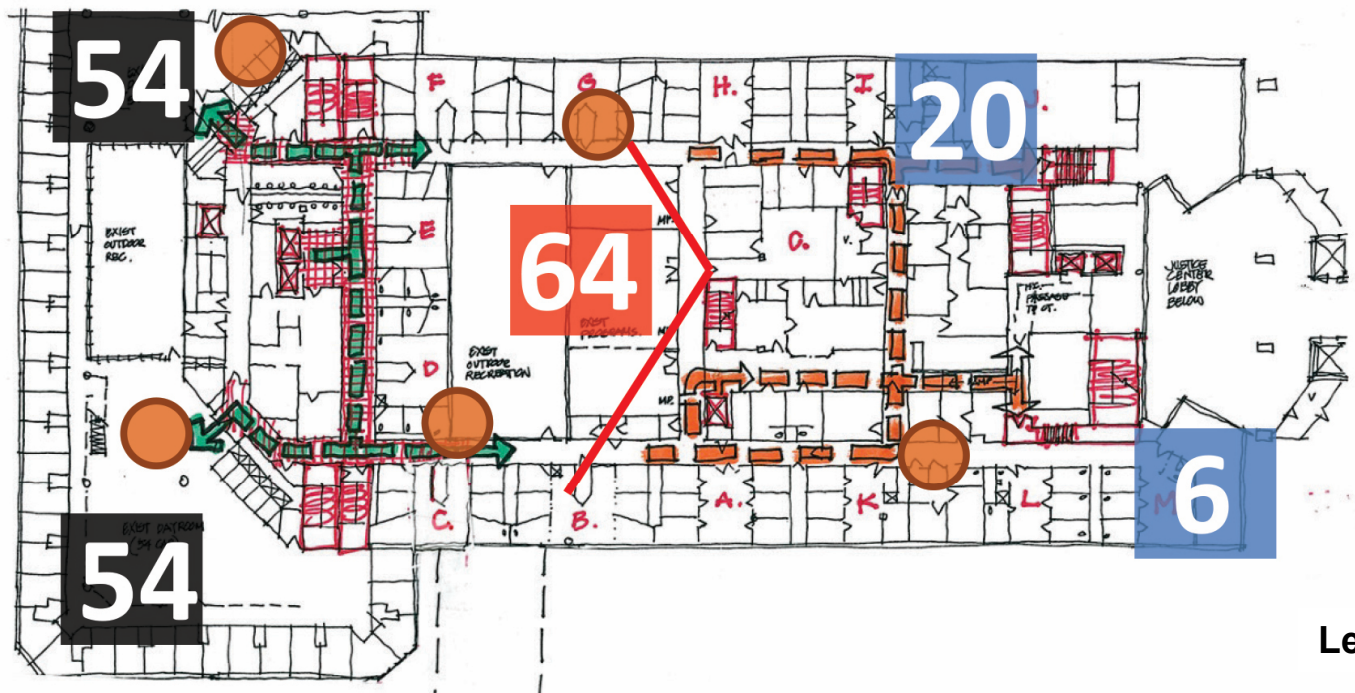
Code Issues

The 1990 addition appears to have adequate exiting and egress stairs provided, but will be reviewed in more detail once more definitive plans are developed during the implementation phase.

As the scope of the remodeling component in the existing building is developed and approaches one of 3 levels of alteration in the International Building Code (IBC), the following will apply:

- Level 1 is minimal and involves primarily room finishes and casework.
- Level 2 is more significant and includes demo, new partitions, and systems.
- Level 3 involves more than 50% of the total building area and of major significance per level 2 would require total building compliance.

The detail of each level is outlined in the code and will be followed as appropriate during the implementation phase. (The total areas remodeled will not approach the 50% threshold required for level 3.)



Existing Staff Posts

Level 2 Existing Jail



Level 1 Existing Jail

	MH		
Direct Supervision:	(15)	108	46%
Dorm	(2)	46	20%
Linear	(25)	64	27%
Intake/Special Holding	(7)	16	7%
	—	—	
	(49)	234	100%

Ability of Each Functional Component to Adequately Support & Serve Current & Future Populations

The McLean County Detention Facility (MCDF) was built in 1976 and partially renovated and added on to in 1990. While many jails with significant inadequacies of this advanced age are replaced, McLean's jail is a "keeper" due to its location as part of the Law and Justice Center, because the 1990 additions and other improvements have made much of the jail highly functional, and because expansion and renovation would be less expensive than replacement.

Because most of the support and program areas were designed for far fewer inmates than current numbers and also because the downtown site of the Jail is somewhat constrained, building-related issues include that certain functional components, such as the kitchen, are not in ideal locations for effectiveness and staff efficiency, and staff sightlines into older housing units are limited.

Many, indeed most, of the components simply do not have enough space to adequately and appropriately accommodate the functions that are needed for the populations detained. Correctional Officers spend a lot of valuable time (that could be better spent otherwise) on transporting detainees to health services and programs, rather than having examination rooms and program space available where it is needed. Many spaces are not even used for the purposes intended, having had to be converted to other uses because of more pressing needs due to the increased number of inmates.

As each jail element was analyzed, it was evaluated functionally including ability to provide mandated services and programs now and into the future. The following pages briefly outline the major inadequacies of the existing functional components to service their current and future populations.

Intake/Holding/Processing/Release

This component functions as the jails Intake, Processing, and Release area but its twelve holding cells currently house the more severe mentally ill detainees, since there is nowhere else to put them. Not all of these cells are even easily visible to correctional officers.

Incoming detainees being processed are primarily held in the open seating area, which is suitable for many but those who are acting out, high on drugs or alcohol, or prone to violence should be placed in holding cells.

There are no exterior windows, and this area receives no natural light. There is no separate Interview Room for medical assessments, there is no dedicated Fingerprint/Breathalyzer area, and Property Storage is at maximum capacity now.

A true assessment and classification system of detainees cannot be adhered to now due to the exigency of too few jail beds for the number of inmates resulting in frequently placing inmates wherever a bed is available.

The Booking Stations overlook the overcrowded Jail Lobby where too much occurs in a very small space -- volunteers for jail programs enter, visitors check in for visiting, where families come to deposit money in inmate accounts, and also where detainees are released, and where Work Releasees and Weekenders enter and exit the facility.

The Vehicular Sallyport is also often congested. In addition to multiple law enforcement vehicles dropping off arrestees, space is taken up by Coroner's office's vehicles, food service delivery, and parking for Sheriff's Office and Jail administrators.

In summary the Intake/Holding/Processing/Release component is overcrowded, severely compounded by the confinement of mentally ill inmates, and it is configurationally challenging, and its layout and space allocation present potential safety and security risks. However, if the mentally ill were housed more appropriately elsewhere, if fewer functions occurred in the lobby, if a few more spaces were added, and if the Booking component was slightly reconfigured and used for its original purpose, then this area could be large enough for an expanded jail population.

Food Service

The Kitchen is located in the basement of the facility, under the older portion of the jail, with access from the elevators near the Intake/Processing/Holding/Release area. The Kitchen is currently run by Aramark with much of the work being done by Trustees. Aramark manages the Trustees, and partially because of its distance from other jail functions there is very limited observation of this area by jail staff.

Reportedly, there are four major limitations to the Kitchen:

- it is at maximum capacity for the current jail population;
- it lacks a suitable and well-located loading dock;
- all stock has to come into the facility through the Vehicular Sallyport, and then be taken down through the elevator to the Kitchen; and
- there is no staff dining area.

Health Services

The Health Services component is severely undersized with far too little dedicated office and examination space. The current location of Health Services is good since it is proximate to the existing housing pods but with an expanded jail population, the medical area and its staff will need to be expanded. There is no infirmary at the current time, but there is a need for sick beds for those with drug/alcohol withdrawal, TB, other contagious diseases, and other medical needs that require isolation from the general population. One must also consider the that the average inmate's age is increasing along with the number of senior citizens, the higher percentage of women and their greater demand for health care services, and the growth in the severity of health problems for inmates overall. Some medical services, such as Health Department visits and interviews, could take place in Interview Rooms in or near Housing Units.

Mental Health Services

This small component, along with its related files, needs more space and should be on the level of the facility where most inmates are housed. Currently, the office is not near inmate records, which creates some logistical issues. Mental Health assessments and counseling should occur in the interview rooms and multi-purpose rooms in and adjacent to the Housing Units.

Inmate Programs

Although program spaces were designed adjacent to the newer Housing Pods in the 1990 addition, several of these program rooms are now being used for staff offices and other functions. And the Law Library in the original structure is largely used by Counseling staff. There is a long wait list of desired programs that cannot be provided due to lack of space. Officers now spend a lot of time transporting inmates to the relatively few existing program areas, when the ideal situation is to offer programs to the inmates in dedicated program spaces in and adjacent to their housing units. The less movement of inmates, the more secure the situation, and the more staff efficient the jail becomes.

Laundry

The Laundry is currently located in the basement near the Kitchen. It is also staffed by Trustees; however, due to its isolated location, other than Kitchen staff, there is little oversight by passing officers or other jail staff. A location on a higher floor, more proximate to housing units, with visibility from intermittent passersby in adjacent hallways would be better.

Housing Pods

The existing direct supervision Housing Pods seem to work well and are worth keeping. Comprised of all single cells, they are suitable for a variety of population types. Not all cells, however, are visible from the Officer Desk. The windows to the adjacent Recreation Yard are clouded and installing new glazing would bring much needed daylighting into the Dayrooms. Also, bringing inmate programs to Multipurpose spaces adjacent to the units, rather than using these spaces for other functions, as they are now, and transporting inmates from units to distant program spaces, would offer a more secure situation and allow more inmates to take advantage of more desired programs. Video-visiting in or near the housing units would also mean that visitors would not have to be brought up to secure areas. Movement of visitors throughout the facility is an ever present problem to secure operations.

Linear Housing Units

The linear housing units are very problematic: they do not lend themselves to direct supervision because they are highly subdivided due to the linear configuration of this area, there is no visibility of cells from a centralized staff station, there is no dayroom space except in each of the subdivided cell blocks, the plumbing is ancient and pretty well shot, and the segmented blocks are unsuitable for most inmate population types. Ideally, this area should be retrofitted to some other use and inmate housing added elsewhere.

Staff Support

The jail lacks a dedicated staff entry. Staff must enter through the Booking area, or enter through the front Lobby. There is no Staff Exercise area. The Male and Female Locker Rooms

are not large enough and there are not enough lockers for all staff. As noted earlier, there is also no break area or dining area for staff, nor are there vending machines available in staff areas. Most staff leave the facility for meals or eat at their workstations. The existing Meeting/Training Room is adequate for its purpose, but it should be supplemented by a Muster Room either near the staff entry or convenient to and from most staff work areas.

Other Issues

Additional housing units, designed for direct supervision and sized for specialized populations, would allow McLean Jail staff to employ a much needed assessment and classification system. Due to the current overcrowding and limited space, placement in the available housing units is largely “behavior” driven, with other factors often not being considered. This creates security risks and fails to meet the constitutional mandate to provide appropriate housing and beds for all categories of detainees, including those with special needs. A computerized classification system is greatly needed for officers to start with at the time of booking, but this is not even feasible until sufficient and appropriate housing units are available.

A Courtroom for High Risk/High Security inmates is needed so they do not have to be taken through public areas to the existing courtrooms, as they are now. Video could be made available outside the secure perimeter for families of the inmates to observe the court proceedings. The courtroom could be located near housing for high security inmates, and an adjacent holding area for the inmates should be adjacent to it. The Judge, Reporter, and Attorney could be more easily moved to the secure courtroom than transporting what are often potentially dangerous inmates through public areas to the existing courtrooms, as is now the case.